

## **Marshfield Conservation Commission**

### **101<sup>st</sup> Meeting (July 6, 2016)**

Members Attending: Taber Allison, Steve Fiske, Ed Jalbert, Anne Miller, Sarah Norton, Annie Reed (Chair)

Minutes: June minutes approved with one typo correction

Treasurer's Report: Annie Reed reporting for Allen: \$7,860.78 in the Conservation Fund; \$276 in the operating budget (\$24 spent by Allen on "something")

#### Jens Hilke Visit

- Sarah invited Jens to our September meeting, and she has not heard back from him, yet.
- Discussion about how to frame the invitation to encourage Planning Commission (MPC) participation
- Steve suggests "Caring for Natural Resources in Your Community"
- Invite MPC and Stranahan Stewardship Committee (SSC)
- Next Steps: After Sarah gets confirmation from Jens, she will contact Jon Groveman and Rich Phillips of the SSC to arrange attendance of the two groups

#### Invasive Species Mapping:

- Goutweed and Wild Parsnip is flowering; latter is very early this year.
- Anne left message with Danny, Road Commissioner, encouraging him to mow at the same time as he had mowing done last year
- Annie suggests we will "paste" all maps back together again to get a baseline of invasives distribution along town roads
- Anne noted a substantial decrease in Wild Parsnip in one section from the previous year; mowing occurred after flowering but before seed set at that location
- Annie suggests using notation of capital letter if species in flower (e.g., G – goutweed in flower; g vegetative only; G – seed); Taber will prepare a notation table, including a photo, and distribute to MCC members (mailing to those without email).
- TNC has a laminate of common invasive species of Vermont; Taber will see if he can locate copies
- "Roadside" is defined as a 6 to 8-foot margin along the verge.

#### Beaver Baffles:

- Annie spoke with Tyler Brown, VT Furbearer Control
- Annie met with Select Board (SB) to ask, "How would you like me to proceed"
- Danny, Road Commissioner, said water levels are so low that many grates are exposed. So, this isn't the summer to be dealing with beaver baffles
- Next step is to identify likely problem areas; Dannie indicated he knew of five spots

#### Planning Commission:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> forum was cancelled
- Annie will ask Jon whether the Planning Commission is moving forward with Village Center designation

#### Stranahan Town Forest:

- Ed has agreed to serve as the liaison for the CC to the SSC; meeting is open and Ed will be an observer and not a voting member. He can provide his expertise and convey the sense/concerns of the CC
- SSC meets at 6 pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month
- Discussion about replacing culvert on Thompson Road; current 18" culvert is insufficient and SB and SSC have agreed(?) to share cost
- CC has asked Ed to convey to SSC that we intend to offer our opinion on proposed bicycle trail
- Anne brought up interest in inviting Middlesex CC to tour the Stranahan Forest to reciprocate their invitation to us. Provide a couple of Saturdays in August. Ed will bring this idea to the SSC and see about possible attendance at walk on the Stranahan Town Forest.
- Anne will suggest 9 am either August 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> as options for the walk and 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> as rain dates

#### Natural Marshfield:

- Anne tried to get information from "regular attendees" about why they haven't been attending, but has learned very little.
- Considering a presentation on bears; check with ANR
- Try to reschedule Bob's presentation
- Steve suggested a talk on the origin of the fishes of Vermont with Rich Langdon
- Loona wants to begin planning for the next joint presentation

#### Martin Covered Bridge Update:

- Steve will go back through old minutes for MCC recommendations re: mowing at Martin Bridge

#### Five-Year Plan Update:

- No word on theme for the Municipal Planning Grant or whether MPC is pursuing village center designation

#### Attendance:

- Allen reported to Annie that he hasn't been able to locate a copy of the MCC's bylaws.

#### Citizen Science

- Taber and company reviewed the latest updates on "Community of Observers"
- Annie will post an announcement on Front Porch Forum
- Anne will plan another "Citizen Science" Natural Marshfield, perhaps for September

- We will continue to consider other platforms including iNaturalist and eBird (for historic bird sightings)

Other Business:

- Steve mentioned that water quality sampling has started and will be continuing; mostly in Winooski River Basin with a focus on bacteria
- Annie deposited \$24.56 into the booklet fund; she would like to do another booklet possibly on wetland
- Anne describes leaf-out failure of chestnut purchased at plant sale; company will send replacements

Submitted by: Taber Allison (for Bob Popp)

Submitted on: 7 July 2016

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Accepted on: 3 August 2016